

(9)

Ministry of External Affairs.
N. G. D.
Home MINISTRY.

~~SECRET~~

Political

Branch

(31)

25/16/NGO-53
File No 57/102/53-74.

Notes CORRESPONDENCE.

1953

MISCELLANEOUS :-

Subject.

Resolution passed by the West Bengal ~~Legislature~~ Assembly demanding the Central Govt. to set up a Committee both of official and non-official members to investigate into the ~~disposition~~ of the funds left by Netaji ~~and~~ Subhas Chandra Bose and his ~~family~~ ~~and~~ Govt.

Declassified

जयप्रियमित्र

(अरुण कुमार चटर्जी)
(ARUN KUMAR CHATTERJEE)
संयुक्त सचिव (सी.एन.डी.)
Joint Secretary (CNY)
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

Notes 1-6 Pages
CORR 1-24 Pages

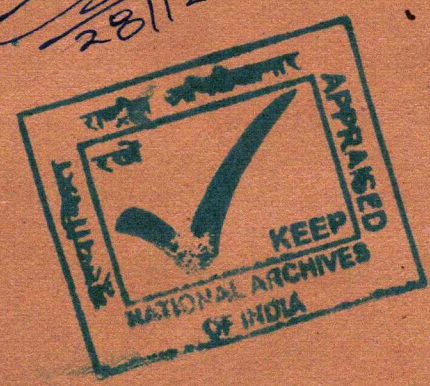
Dis CAP
26/1/54

Total 30

JM
26/9/54

KN TC pps with
have than 30 yrs old
Declaratory

keep 28/12/55



A draft acknowledgement is put up with reference to para. 3 of the F.R.

2. As regards the resolution passed by West Bengal Legislative Assembly requesting the Government of India to set up a committee both of official and non-official members to investigate into the whereabouts of the funds left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government- we do not seem to have any information about the funds left by Shri Netaji and his Azad Hind Govt. I.B. or E.A. Ministry may have some information.

3. Submitted for orders.

Pandya

12-9-53

24N

12.5.53

~~used~~

As the funds referred to in
the resolution of the
the West Bengal Leg. Assembly
were raised abroad, any
investigation in regard to the
disposal of those funds would
be a matter for the Div.
of F. A. to handle. That
Committee may therefore be
requested to take over these
papers.

12.9.53.
Under Secretary (P)

Some acknowledgment as slightly

expanded. Then action as above.

Pol-

Serial No.....(Issue).....

(Ref. N.S.(P)'s note above)

Exhumed.
9/8
(N.K. Ghoshal,
Dy. Secy.)

D. 44.4-116953 E. A. Ministry

МКА ур. №. 57/102/53-полл н. 23.9.53

26/5

Ministry of External Affairs
(NGO Section)

Reference Ministry of Home Affairs u/o note placed below and the F.R.

2. The West Bengal Legislative Assembly have passed the following Resolution :-

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government be requested to take steps to investigate regarding the funds reported to be left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government."

This Resolution was passed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 4th May 1953 and the West Bengal Government have now forwarded a copy of it together with a copy of the proceedings of the Assembly to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. This has been passed on to us by the Ministry of Home Affairs for disposal.

3. In this connection it may be stated that some property belonging to the former I.N.A. was handed over to us by the officials of the India Independence League of Tokyo some time ago. This property known as the I.N.A. Treasure has now been brought into India and under P.M.'s instructions will be kept as evidence of the aircraft accident in which Shri Subhas Chandra Bose met his death. The existence of this property in India with us is, however, not yet made public and it is not clear if we can inform the West Bengal Govt. of its existence.

4. Apart from the property which has been brought to India from Tokyo, it is understood that there are some funds of the India Independence League at Singapore, which have been taken over by the Custodian of Enemy Property. The relevant papers about these are in the SEA Section.

5. Mention has been made in the proceedings of the Assembly about

(i) A Resolution passed by them in the last session asking for a Committee to be set up to investigate into the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Government of India's reply thereto. The relevant papers may please be seen at slip 'D' in NGO file No.25/13/NGO, linked below;

(ii) Allegations made against Mr. Ramamurti of the India Independence League at Tokyo of having misappropriated the funds of the Azad Hind Government. This question has already been considered by us in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and it was decided that Government cannot do anything beyond keeping an eye on Mr. Ramamurti's activities during his stay in India and that in any case we cannot carry out a formal investigation in other countries.

Submitted.

See
7.10.53
8.10.53

DS (FEA)

8.10.

PIC

Relevant papers
in NGO file No.
25/13/NGO, which
will be put up,
if desired.

F1264(4) - SEA(M)/SI

slip 'D'
(L.F. I)

+ slip 'H'
(L.F. II)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. The Home Ministry have sent us a copy of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly's Resolution, of May 4th 1953, asking the Government of India to investigate the question of funds "reported to be left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government".

P.13/Corr. ("F")

- (a) F.S. will remember that, under the Prime Minister's instructions, some property belonging to the I.N.A. was taken over from Mr. Ramamurti, by our Embassy in Tokyo, in September 1951, and was brought to India by Mr. Damle in November 1952. JS(AD) has kept this property by, pending PM's final decision about its disposal.

Flags A&B.F.No.25/4/NGO.Flag 'C'.F.No.25/4/NGO.

- (b) According to the office note on page 2, paragraph 4, the Custodian of Enemy Property has charge of some funds of the Singapore Branch of the India Independence League. The SEA Branch would be able to verify this.

A

2. The question is, should all this information, which has not yet been made public, be conveyed to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in reply to their Resolution?

~~F.S.~~

9. 10. 53.

A. Please let me know what progress has been made in getting the funds transferred to SEA

[Signature]

DS (fem)

Pl. put up the papers early.

MDD/Mair

KS(SEA)

7/10/53

9/10/53

M. B. R.

15/11

(from previous page)

SEA Section.

Reference F.S.'s note on the pre-page)

It was decided by the Prime Minister on 8th July 1950 that the balance in the Trust relating to the Indian Relief Committee Funds created by him out of the purses presented to him during his tour of Malaya in 1946 as well as the I.N.A. and I.I.L. funds seized in South East Asia countries (which are now in the custody of the Custodian of Enemy Property in Singapore) should be invested and utilised for payment of scholarships in the University of Malaya. Later on, it was also decided to amalgamate with these Funds/Assets the amounts realised from certain shipping companies on account of unspent balances of quarantine charges lying with them. A new scholarship fund is being created out of all these moneys in Singapore for the award of scholarships to students of Indian origin in the Peninsula.

2. In view of the position stated above, the question of transferring the "funds of the Singapore Branch of the India Independence League" did not arise and was therefore never considered by this Branch. Submitted.

Since the P.M.'s decision - Pt. 2 below - was to utilise the i.i.l. funds in Malaya for the award of scholarships, the question of their transfer to India does not seem to have been considered.

VMM:man.

10/10/53.

F.S.

What is the amount of the I.R.C. funds, where have they been invested and who administers these funds? What is the amount of the I.N.A./I.I.L. funds seized in S.E.A.? Are they still in Custodian's custody and what progress has been made in getting them amalgamated with I.R.C. funds? What is the position about shipping companies' unspent balances? What progress has been made in creating the scholarship fund and how will this be administered? Please let us have a self-contained note to which information should be added about I.R.C. funds transferred.

[Signature]

11/10/53.

should be added about I.R.C. funds transferred "done"

NGD M

* Partion A at Slip Z.

* Please see note at Slip Y.

D.P.(SEA)

10/10/53 10/10/53

ASUBA

Ref. 85 note on prepage

1. A self contained note is put up at ship P.

Ref
13/10/53

Reference, F's note on prepage-

A self contained note is submitted
at P below.

DS (SEA)

1/11/11 Nair
14/10/53

~~F.S.~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

F.S. has sent a note to P.M.

1/11/11 Nair
15/10/53

DS (SEA)

taken from
SEA br.

SEA Branch has already received separately,
a copy of the letter P.M. has written to
the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

This file may now be retained by
W.G.O. Branch.

19/10

19/10/53

19/10

SECRET

I.N.A. Funds.

On May 2nd, the West Bengal Legislature adopted the following resolution:--

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government be requested to take steps to investigate regarding the funds reported to be left by Netaji and his Azad Hind Government".

Early in September, a copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Home Ministry by the West Bengal Government. It was stated in the covering letter that the resolution had the support of the West Bengal Government.

Slip 'P'

2. I have had a note prepared which shows the action we have taken to effect recovery of INA and other funds. Our intention is to create a scholarship fund for the benefit of students in Malaya out of the Indian Relief Committee Funds, the unspent balances of quarantine charges and INA and IIL funds which are at present held by the Custodian of Enemy Property in Singapore. The estimated value of the scholarship fund is Straits, \$288,483. In addition to this, there is an IIL fund held at present by our Embassy in Thailand. The value of this fund is Rs.29,638. Finally, there is some INA property which was in the possession of Subhas Chandra Bose at the time of his death. This property, which consists of some charred ornaments, etc. and Japanese currency notes, is now in our possession. We have kept it in the safe custody of the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi. Perhaps at some later stage, when a National Museum is opened, this property may be kept in the museum as articles of historical value.

3. We have been requested by the West Bengal Legislature to locate the funds reported to have been left by Subhas Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Government and to take some further action. I think it would be useful if some announcement could be made about the action taken by us in respect of the various INA and IIL funds and other property, etc. Perhaps the most appropriate way to do this would be for P.M. to give full information in reply to a question in Parliament. It is possible that there may be some question about this in the next session: alternatively, we could arrange to have a question put.

N.G.O. (20.X.53)

P.M.

(R.K.Nehru)
16.10.53

If you will have a clean copy of the typed note prepared, I shall send it to the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

I do not myself think that we need take trouble to give greater publicity to this matter at this stage. If necessary, a question can be answered in Parliament. The papers should be kept ready for that purpose.

A clean copy of the note is placed below.

(J. Nehru)
16-10-1953

Please have a clean copy prepared.

20.X.53

17/10

P.M.

IMMEDIATE

Government of West Bengal.
Home Department.
Political.

10105/53-Recd

7-9-53

S-100-1

(1)

From :- Shri Dharendra Mohan Gupta, I.A.S.,
Joint Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal.

To :- The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.

No. 5535-P/20A-23/53-Coll. Dated Calcutta, the 2nd September, 1953.

Subject :- West Bengal Legislative Assembly Resolution regarding the
funds reported to have been left by Netaji Subhas Chandra
Bose and his Azad Hind Government.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the Resolution passed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, together with an uncorrected copy of the proceedings of the Assembly, containing English renderings of the speeches in Bengali, as well, on the above subject and to say that the Resolution, which was moved in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 4th May, 1953, was carried without any division and that the State Government had expressed their support to the Resolution by voting in its favour.

2. A certified copy of the proceedings of the Assembly will follow as soon as corrected copies of the same are made available by the West Bengal Assembly Secretariat.

3. The receipt of this communication may kindly be acknowledged at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

J. Chandra

Joint Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal.

28.8./M.S./2.9./

28/3/53

PROCEEDING DATED THE 4TH MAY, 1953.
NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS,
RESOLUTIONS.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : Sir,

This Assembly is of

Mr. Speaker : You move the resolution and please get somebody to move an amendment, and that will do.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : Sir, I move ~~that~~ that -

This Assembly is of opinion that the West Bengal State Government should move the Central Government to set up a Committee consisting both of official and non-official members to investigate into the whereabouts of the funds left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government before Netaji Bose had left for an unknown destination, as reported in the press.

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee : Sir, I beg to move that the following verbal changes be adopted in the Resolution just now moved by Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu. Let it read "This Assembly is of opinion that the West Bengal State Government should move the Central Government to set up a Committee consisting both of the members of the Central and State Legislatures to investigate into there whereabouts of the funds reported to have been left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Government founded by Netaji Bose before Netaji Bose had left for an unknown destination from Saigon".

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : Sir, I rise on a point of order. Is there anything in the Constitution which would enable us to ask for a joint Committee consisting of the members of the Central Legislature and of the State Legislature. I doubt very much.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Basu, can you make it members of one Legislature - either Central or State ?

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : Sir, cannot the Government of India appoint a Committee consisting of members of the Central Legislature as well as of the State Legislature ?

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : No, it cannot be. The Central Government would appoint members of the Central Legislature but how can the Government of India ask the Provincial Legislature to appoint members on it. I have not seen any-thing like it in the Constitution.

Sj. Hemanta...

(3)

- 1 -

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : The Government of India will appoint. The Resolution is this, that the Government of West Bengal should move the Central Government to set up a Committee.

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : If you set up a Committee without mentioning as to where the Committee members would come from, it is a different matter. But you say here about members of the Central Legislature and the Provincial Legislature. I do not know whether there is anything in the Constitution to enable us to ask for it.

Sj. Jyoti Basu : Sir, I think it is quite in order, because what is being proposed here is that the Central Government, not the Parliament, is requested to appoint a Committee with members who belong to Parliament and members who belong to the State Legislature. I think the Central Government can do that; and if the members of the State Legislature and Parliament agree to serve on the Committee, there is no Constitutional difficulty about it.

Mr. Speaker : I want Dr. Roy to clarify. So far as States are concerned, recently in the Delimitation Commission the Central Government advised a committee to be appointed consisting of members of the Central Legislature and the West Bengal Legislature. Of course, non-official resolutions are recommendatory resolutions. Supposing the State Government requests the Central Government to appoint a committee which will consist of members both from the State Legislature and from the Central Legislature, will there be any difficulty ? I do not think there will be.

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : Yes, Sir, but the difficulty is, where is the authority of the committee to investigate into the funds of the private organisation ? You will have to ask for evidence, you will have to find out people who will give evidence. I do not know whether the Central Government will appoint a committee to investigate into the funds that may be somewhere laid. What authority will that committee have to investigate into the whereabouts unless it was a case in which under the Reserve Bank Act or something like that investigation can be made into some banks, I do not know.

I cannot understand the way in which the investigation will proceed.

Sj. Jyoti Basu : Again I do not think there is any difficulty in appointing this committee to investigate into certain matters, but it may be that difficulties will crop up. That I agree, because as soon as they start investigating, the banks in South East Asia might say, 'we refuse to give any reply'. It may be an ineffective investigation. But all the same we saw some reports in the press that certain gentleman toured in South East Asia and came back from South East Asia and they had given certain evidence to him with regard to the funds which are lying somewhere there. Anyway, if the India Government makes an effort through a committee, it is just possible that certain evidence may come forth from non-official organisations as well. That is a secondary matter whether it will be an effective investigation or not which we shall consider at a later stage when the investigation begins.

Mr. Speaker : Why do you ask the Central Government to take steps ?

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : It is the Central Government which is the proper authority which will be approached to set up a committee. It is they who can do this, we cannot do this.

Mr. Speaker : The question of powers of the committee arises the authority to carry on the investigation. Simply by appointing a committee it cannot be done. It concerns the question of foreign banks and other foreign States. It must have the proper authority. The Central Government have alone the power to do it.

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : There is another point which I want to make. It is asked that the West Bengal State Government should move the Central Government. It says 'funds reported to have been left by Netaji and his Azad Hind Government'. If I am to write a letter to the Central Government I will have to say something. I know nothing about it. What am I to write to the Central Government ? If I say that it is reported in the press, is that sufficient ? If you simply say, 'This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government should make an enquiry', I can understand that, but you ask the State.....

15

State Government to take steps. Therefore I am asking this question I know nothing about the funds that have been left by Netaji Subhas Bose; I know nothing except what appeared in the press. Is that sufficient for me to proceed? I have no idea whether the Azad Hind Government had left any funds, whether Subhas Babu had left any funds. How am I to proceed in the matter?

Mr. Speaker : You will proceed on the strength of the recommendatory resolution.

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : I do say it will be useless. May I suggest to my friend Hemanta Babu, you simply say "This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government do take steps to investigate into this matter" instead of putting it in this form. I think his object will be served if he asks the Central Government to take steps to investigate into the matter.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Babu : But the West Bengal Government must move the Central Government.

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : As soon as you pass the resolution it will be sent on to the Central Government.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : Then there will be ~~an~~ no objection.

Sj. Iswar Das Jalan : The position is any resolution which emanates from the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal must proceed upon some foundation. With regard to the funds, where is the prima facie case?

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : A Minister of the Azad Hind Government has made a statement.

Sj. Iswar Das Jalan : There are good grounds for holding that the particular fund was there. Is it wise for the Bengal Legislative Assembly to proceed upon a hypothetical basis? Would it be a dignified procedure on our part to proceed upon a simple press report appearing somewhere and make ~~xxx~~ a resolution and send it to the Central Government?

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee : Would Mr. Jalan give us an idea as to the kind of evidence that is required before the Assembly can sponsor a resolution? We have to proceed upon press

reports in a matter concerning Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the matter of his whereabouts, in the matter of funds which he may or may not have left behind. We have got to proceed upon press reports or upon the report of somebody who was associated with Netaji. I do not see how he can insist upon a higher standard of evidence in sponsoring a resolution.

Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy : I would suggest this form if this meets Hemanta Babu's wishes - This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government do take steps to investigate into the funds reported to have been left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker : Let us proceed on the amended form.

Sj. Suhrid Kumar Mullick Chowdhury : I beg to move that the following words be added at the end of resolution No. 20 in the name of Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu, namely :-

"and, further as in the view of the Government of India Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead, the State Government should move the Government of India to lay before the public the grounds of their findings regarding his death".

Mr. Speaker : How can it be mixed up with this resolution?

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : A resolution that was passed in the last Assembly was this : "This Assembly is of opinion that the West Bengal Government move the Government of India to set up a committee to investigate into the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose", and, Sir, you know that the Government of India had already written to the Chief Minister of the Government of West Bengal that their opinion was that Netaji is dead. We want by this resolution a clarification of the death news of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. We want to ask the Government of India to place their findings as to how they have arrived at the decision, at the findings regarding the death of Netaji Subhas Bose. So the resolution is quite different.

Mr. Speaker....

Mr. Speaker : Why combine them together. Do it separately. This/ cannot be an amendment. It is a substantive resolution.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : It may be taken as a different resolution - I have no objection. Will the House allow the amendment to be moved as a substantive resolution ?

Mr. Speaker : Let the original take shape first. The amendment cannot be allowed to come as a substantive resolution.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : It will have to come to-day.

Sj. Debendra Chandra Dey : I beg to move this amendment.

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government make proper investigation regarding the funds reported to be left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government". This is to be substituted in place of Sj. Hemanta Basu's resolution.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : I accept it.

Sj. Suhrid Kumar Mullick Chowdhury :

Mr. Speaker : Your amendment cannot be allowed. You cannot have that by way of amendment. It is an entirely different matter.

Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : You allow him to move a resolution.

Mr. Speaker : That cannot be. Resolutions are ballotted.

Sj. Suhrid Kumar Mullick Chowdhury : Mr. Speaker, this is only being added.

Mr. Speaker : I quite fellow. It is an entirely different matter.

Sj. Suhrid Kumar Mullick Chowdhury : I am adding this with the main resolution.

Mr. Speaker : An amendment must relate to the main resolution.

Sj. Suhrid Kumar Mullick Chowdhury : My opinion is that, Netaji

Mr. Speaker : Your resolution is something different. It has got nothing to do with the main resolution.

Sj. Suhrid Kumar Mullick Chowdhury : I want to add with the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, "Leaders of Azad Hind Government"

Mr. Spe

Mrx Mr. Speaker : No, no. That cannot be allowed.

Bengali portion [Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu : Mr. Speaker Sir, There was a lot of discussion at the last session of the Assembly on the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra. We have heard various reports about Netaji's death. The resolution that was passed on this question at the last session of the Assembly was then forwarded to the Government of India. In reply they have stated that they believed that Netaji was dead. We all know how Netaji Subhas Chandra formed the Azad Hind Government outside India for attaining India's freedom and how this Azad Hind Government fought for freedom of the country from outside India. This Azad Hind Force reached Indian soil up to Imphal. People of South Asia placed crores of rupees in the hands of Netaji for running this Azad Hind Government. We have seen reports published in newspapers on several occasions that all the money which the people there had placed in his hands or in the hands of his Government had not been spent and large sums still remained in the hands of the Azad ~~Go~~ Hind Government. This money may be claimed by India or by the Government of India, for it belongs to the Azad Hind Government and to the free Government which he had formed. We have therefore, and the Government of India have also, the right to enquire what has happened to this money. And if as a result of ~~enquiry~~ enquiry we can secure this money a lot of good work may be done by means of it; we can at least use it on the Mahajati Sadan which was run by Netaji Subhas Chandra. After the aeroplane disaster which occurred since Netaji Subhas Chandra's departure from Saigon, on the 17th August, 1945 we have not been able to get any news about him inspite of many enquiries made. It is reported that he died as a result of this accident though various reports have been published on different occasions about his death. Some persons have said that he died from bullet shots, McArthur shot him dead. Some persons say that he has been assassinated. It is also found that when Dr. Radhabenode Paul went to Tokyo he made enquiries about Netaji's death and General McArthur told him that Subhas Chandra was their principal enemy. When Dr. Radhabinode Paul said next that he did not live any longer General McArthur did not give any reply. Be that as it may, the subject matter

of to-day's discussion is about the money. We have found from newspaper reports that when he left Saigon by plane he was accompanied by a Minister of the Azad Hind Government and a high military official and also by a Japanese General whose name is Jeshida. We have also read a newspaper report that the plane was suddenly halted and he was taken from there by another plane. Thereafter we learnt from radio and newspaper reports that he had died as a result of aeroplane accident.

We know that the Azad Hind Government had large sums of money and gold. Where has this money gone and who has taken it? On the day of Netaji's departure ministers and military officials were scheduled to accompany him but as there was no accommodation in the plane they were not taken and Col. Habibur Rahaman alone proceeded with him. Large sums of money and boxes full of gold were taken in the plane. It was reported thereafter that this money had been taken to Tokyo. After the news of his death was given out on 24th Mr. M. Ayer an important officer of the Azad Hind Government was taken to Tokyo and from what is known about this money it was also taken there and though it is not known how this money has been spent or where it has disappeared, this money was deposited with an Indian whose name is Mr. Rammurti and it was found that the same Mr. Rammurti had become overnight a wealthy man. This Mr. Rammurti is now in India.]

Dr. Atindra Nath Bose : At the fag end of the last session of this House a resolution was unanimously adopted requesting the Government of West Bengal to urge upon the Central Government to undertake an enquiry about the whereabouts of Netaji. Sir, this resolution of this House received a very court treatment from the authorities in Delhi. They said that the Government are satisfied that Netaji is dead and that nothing further can be done about this matter. Sir, the whereabouts of the treasure of the Azad Hind National Bank which was taken by Netaji at the time of his historic departure are very intimately connected with the whereabouts of Netaji himself. If we can come to any conclusive finding about the whereabouts of Netaji, or if he is at all dead, about the manner of his death, then I think

the mystery of treasure of the Azad Hind Bank may be very easily solved. Our Government in Delhi have conclusively accepted the plane crash story. This plane crash story has been subjected to doubt for various reasons even by the Anglo-American secret service - not to speak of others. Col. Habibur Rahman who accompanied Netaji at the time of his last flight and who previously gave out the story of the crash has very recently repudiated his statement from Pakistan in a statement in the Civil and Military Gazette which has been reproduced in the Free Press Journal. When he came he presented Netaji's watch to Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose; the watch was quite intact. But he did not say anything about the treasure which Netaji carried nor did he say anything about the ashes of Netaji. The story of the ashes preserved at Renokji Temple seems to be a later concoction. If the Government is very definite about their findings I wonder why should they not publish those materials in the form of a White Paper? Why of all persons Sj. S.K.Ayyar is deputed to make an investigation in Japan about Netaji and why should he undertake a conducted our in that country.

There are other I.N.A. officers who were very closely connected with Netaji during the last days of the Indian National Army and there were many of them who were very intimately connected with Japan and who knew the Japanese language, but none of them were deputed to enquire into the matter on the spot. Sir, these I.N.A. Officers as well as the Japanese officers who had been all along in close contact with Netaji and who took charge of Netaji during the flight are, all of them, living. Why should not the Government of Delhi take recorded statement from these people and publish them in the form of a White Paper.

Recently, Sir, a report appeared in a Japanese paper, viz. Mainichi, in which one Rammurti figured very prominently. He was the ex-President of the India Independence League. He suddenly made himself a multi-millionaire and thereafter he returned to India and submitted his report to whom we do not know. Sir, let the Government of Delhi get an authentic report from Rammurti. Let him tell wherefrom did he find the money with

(11)

- - -

which he became an upstart overnight. Sir, the India Government owe it to the people of Bengal as well as of India to bring all these facts Before the public and remove any shade of suspicion that may remain in our minds.

It is no use, Sir, dilating upon the nation importance of these matters. It is no use repeating once again how the people of Bengal, and for the matter of that, of India feel very keenly about the whereabouts of their national hero. I think, Sir, it is an insult not merely to this House but to the entire people of India to treat the unanimous resolution of the House in such a summary and curt fashion and I request the Government of West Bengal to take the matter up over again in right earnest and impress upon the Government at Delhi so that a searching enquiry is made into the matter, so that evidences are taken from all people who were connected with Netaji towards the fag-end of his career, so that these are made public - all the materials are made public in the form of a White Paper.

(As this stage the House was adjourned for half an hour).

(After adjournment)

Sj. Jyoti Basu: Sir, before you take up the resolution, May I point out to you that day before yesterday we were given a notice that the Abolition of Zemindary Bill is coming tomorrow, but, unfortunately, as yet we are not in possession of the Bill. So, I bring it to your notice.

Mr. Speaker : It will not be taken up tomorrow.

Sj. Jyoti Basu : Anyway, it should be in our hands before ~~even~~ even there is a motion for it to be referred to the Select Committee. Otherwise, it is extremely difficult for us to know what is being referred to the Select Committee.

Bengali portion [Sj. Janardan Sahu : Mr. Speaker Sir, We should all try to keep intact national wealth. Our Bengal which is watered by many rivers and highly fertile is becoming impoverished ... People have no food and no cloth, this is the deplorable condition to which the country has been reduced to-day. But it is the duty of all to maintain national wealth. Just as Ram Krishna Parar Swami Vivekananda are our national assets so also Subhas Chandra is our national asset. What he has done for us is engraved in

our hearts. Fire can never be suppressed. It is known to all that when he was a student he protested against the oppression by an Englishman. It was understood at that time of what materials Subhas Chandra Bose was constituted. I was then a student, I remember the incident like a picture. We know how he has tried to form he has done it. This achievement of his will be remembered with reverence to the people in the country. Here I would like to say a word, Dr. Roy should not take it a miss, in future he too will be regarded as a national asset of the country and for the matter of it of the whole of India. Subhas Chandra Bose is also a national asset, and it is the duty of the people of the country to see that this asset is maintained. I think therefore that a biography of Subhas Chandra Bose should be written from and it should be seen that the impoverished Bengalis may not lose this valuable asset. I conclude with these words.

Sj. AMBIKA CHAKRABORTY : Mr. Speaker Sir, I support the resolution of Hemanta Babu, that is to say, I support his substitute resolution. There have been many speculations in this country about the money of the Azad Hind Government, mistaken impressions have been created. Some time back Sri Debnath Das, a Minister of the Azad Hind Government, came back after touring in eastern countries. It appears from the report which he has produced after his return that the Azad Hind Government had a large sum of money about which no information is available. We look upon this money as our national property. If this money can be recovered it may be spent on our national planning. I would therefore request the Central Government through this Government to consider the point that if this money belonging to the Azad Hind Government can be recovered it may be used as our national property. Hence in supporting the resolution which has been moved I would like to say that nothing is known about the fate of the treasure of the Azad Hind Government of Subhas Chandra. A committee should be appointed by the Central Government for the purpose of an enquiry to find it out.]

Sri.....

13

- 12 -

Bengali Journal [Shri Annada Gopal Mukherji : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would say just a few words in supporting this resolution. Netaji Subhas Chandra holds the highest position among those who are respected by India for carrying on a movement for India's freedom and for arousing the people by the mantra of Freedom. I want to say that today after the attainment of freedom the question has arisen what has happened to the large sums of money which had been voluntarily contributed by the people for running the national Government which Netaji had formed in a part of Burma as a result of the efforts made for the freedom of the country outside India. Today the question arises where is that money? Whether this money exists, whether this money is misused by anybody it is the duty of the Government of India to make an enquiry into it. Steps should be taken so that we may get information about this money and recover the same. This is not the demand of any particular party, I think that every person in Bengal regards it as a demand of their heart and it is the demand of their heart which is being given form in the Bengal Assembly. I would conclude my speech with the suggestion that Government should appoint an enquiry committee in order to find out what has happened to the money. I would also say at the same time that in the course of enquiry about this money information whether Subhas Chandra is alive, may be available, this is in fact the hope of the people of Bengal that his behind the demand which has been made in the Assembly. There is perhaps evidence that he has expired but no one would believe it. Perhaps each and every man believes in his heart that he is alive and hopes that he would come back amongst us today. They have made this request having perhaps no other constitutional way before them. I would conclude ~~my~~ my speech with these words.]

Resolution

The motion of Sj. Debendra Day in substitution of the original resolution of Sj. Hemanta Kumar Basu that -

to This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government be requested to take steps (no) investigate regarding the funds reported to be left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government, was then put and agreed to.

- 14 -
M.H.A.

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

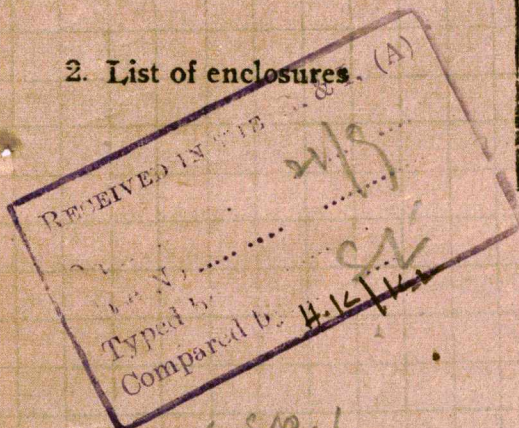
File No. *2*

Serial No. *2*

Draft ^{Letter}
~~Memorandum~~
~~Telegram~~

158nd
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1. Date of despatch

2. List of enclosures. (A)



No. *55/102/53 Coll* Dated *22-8-53*

To

The Joint Secretary to the Govt.
of West Bengal, Home Department
(Political).

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5535-P/20A-23/53-Coll., dated the 2nd September 1953, forwarding a copy of the resolution and an uncorrected copy of the proceedings of the State the/Assembly regarding the funds reported to have been left by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Government. The communication has been forwarded to the Hon. M.H.A.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
U.S.(P) *21/9*

Sd/-
15/10/53

(15)

New Delhi,
October 18, 1953.

My dear Chief Minister,

My attention has recently been drawn to a resolution passed by the West Bengal Legislature on May 2nd to the following effect:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government be requested to take steps to investigate regarding the funds reported to be left by Netaji and his Azad Hind Government."

As a matter of fact, we have taken many steps to investigate this matter during the last few years. The investigation was started by me personally when I visited Malaya early in 1946. Since then many other steps have been taken both in Malaya and in Tokyo. I enclose a note giving such information as we possess on this subject.

I do not think any further investigation is needed or is possible.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Jawaharlal Nehru.

Dr B.C. Roy,
Chief Minister of West Bengal,
CALCUTTA.

Copy to FS, together with the file.

25. (FEN)

20.10.53
A. G. O.

INDIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE FUNDS:

When the Prime Minister visited Malaya in 1946, some purses were presented to him during his tour of Malaya. It was decided by him that this money should be placed in a Trust known as the Indian Relief Committee Funds. Messrs J.A.Thivy, N.Raghavan, R.Ramani, Arunachalam Chettiar and Seenikhatti were appointed trustees. But the Funds substantially remained unutilised. In April 1952, Mr. Ramani, the Treasurer of the Indian Relief Committee, proposed to the Prime Minister as the Founder of the Trust that the balance in these Funds may be utilised for the award of scholarships to Indian students in Malaya. The Prime Minister agreed. Accordingly, the Trust was wound up with the consent of the four trustees, Mr. Chettiar having died, and the balance of Straits dollars 44,212.85 was transferred to our Representative in Malaya by Mr. Ramani in November 1952. This amount was placed in a fixed deposit with the Indian Overseas Bank, Singapore.

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY AND INDIAN INDEPENDENCE LEAGUE FUNDS.

Soon after the termination of the last War in the Far East, some quantity of gold, jewellery and other valuables, was seized from the officials and others connected with the I.N.A. and I.I.L. in the South East Asia Countries. These are at present held in Singapore by the Custodian of Property.

According to the information furnished by the Government of Singapore in 1950, these assets were valued at Straits dollars 147,163.00 as follows:-

(a) Gold and Jewellery \$ 40,243.00

(b) Currency notes of
the face value of
\$ 57,803.53 but
valued in 1950 at \$106,920.00

Total:- \$147,163.00.

Intimation has recently been received from our Representative in Malaya that the Piastra has been revalued and that some of the currencies will not fetch anything. It is, therefore, difficult to assess the exact value of these assets.

There ~~were then~~ protracted negotiations with Pakistan, as she claimed a part of these assets. In the end, it was agreed that the assets should be divided between India and Pakistan in the ratio of 2: 1. We asked our Representative in Malaya on the 27th April and also Mr. Ramani, who was associated with this matter from the very beginning, to take further action and to obtain the release of the assets from the Singapore Government. Mr. Blythe, the official administering the colony, said in May 1953 that the matter would have to go ~~up~~ before the Legislative Council as the Custodian of Enemy Property had no right to hand over any amount to any person or body. He also wished to write to the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding Pakistan's share. The amount that will accrue to India will be amalgamated with the I.R.C. Funds as soon as it is obtained from the Government of Singapore.

UNSPENT BALANCES OF QUARANTINE CHARGES

A desposit of Rs.28/10/- used to be collected by shipping companies from each deck passenger embarking for Malaya from

These including in to meet expenses
Bombay and Rs. 28/5/- from Calcutta towards ~~his~~ ^{expenses} quarantine charges in quarantine camps in Malaya. This deposit was intended to cover the expenditure for a full period of 10 days' stay during quarantine. In actual practice, however, passengers were detained in these camps for a ~~lesser~~ ^{fewer} number of days. Consequently, the shipping companies ~~concerned~~ had upspent balances which were neither claimed by, nor paid to, the passengers concerned. ~~Accordingly~~ ^{It} was decided to collect these ~~amounts~~ ^{sums} from the shipping companies ~~concerned~~ and to utilise them for augmenting the Scholarship Fund. Until now, a sum of Rs. 2,512/10/- has been collected from the Eastern Shipping Corporation, Ltd., Bombay and Straits dollars 244,270.98 from the B.I.S.N. Company of Calcutta. These amounts have now been added to the I.R.C. Funds.

CREATION OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It is estimated that the fixed deposit of dollars 288,483.83 with the Indian Overseas Bank, Singapore, will bring in about dollars 10,000/- by way of interest every year. It has been decided that this amount should be utilised for awarding thirty scholarships every year as detailed below:-

- (1) Dollars 2,250/- for the award of 25 scholarships to pre-University students at dollars 90/- per scholar (dollars 60/- fees and dollars 30/- for books)
- (2) Dollars 7,500/- for the grant of 5 scholarships of dollars 1,500/- each for University students. This

is expected to cover tuition fees and boarding and lodging.

A trust will be created with our Representative in Malaya as the Trustee, who will be assisted in the selection of candidates for the award of scholarships by a Committee comprising of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya or his nominee, the Principal of the Technical College, Federation of Malaya, or his nominee and four Indians resident in Malaya to be nominated by our Representative at his discretion.

The Deed for the new Scholarship Fund has been drafted by the Ministry of Law and is being examined. It will be sent to our Representative for his comments shortly.

I. I. L. FUND IN THAILAND.

A sum of Ticals 258822 (equivalent to Rs. 29638/-) which originally belonged to the Indian Independence League and ^{was} confiscated by the British authorities in Thailand, was received by our Embassy at Bangkok in 1950. This amount was deposited in the Indian Overseas Bank Ltd. at 3% interest. It is being administered by our Embassy in Thailand.

It was decided to use ~~the~~ ^{accruing} interest ^{from it for} sending a scholar from India to Bangkok every year to deliver lectures on any subject of Indo-Thai interest which ~~is~~ ^{is} non-political in ~~character~~ ^{nature}. This year, Mr. T.N. Ramachandran, Joint Director General of Archaeology, was sent ~~for the purpose~~ with the approval of P.M. ~~He~~ While agreeing with the proposal, ~~the P.M.~~ ^{inter alia} stated ~~remarked~~ as follows:—

"I must say that the decision arrived at by External Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Education and our Embassy in Thailand was not particularly helpful. I do not myself understand the particular advantage of some scholar from India going to Bangkok every year. There are many other ways in which we could have utilised this money to better advantage, for instance in giving scholarships to students".

The matter is being considered afresh *in* consultation with the Ministry of Education and our Embassy.

I.N.A. PROPERTY IN JAPAN
TRANSFERRED TO INDIA.

In September 1951 some property belonging to the I.N.A. was taken over by our Embassy in Tokyo from Mr. Ramamurti, ex-chairman of the Indian Independence League of Tokyo. This was done under P.M's instructions. This property, which is roughly valued at Rs.90,000/-, was brought to India by Mr. Damle in November 1952. This was also done under P.M's instructions.

Pending P.M's final decision about its disposal, this property has been kept in one of ^{Ks} Ministry's safes in ADIII Section in a double sealed box.

Routine

(13/21)

SEA Section may now see
P.M.'s letter dated 18.10.53 placed
below. They may also retain
copies of relevant papers if
considered necessary.

Ag
20.10.53 Q
20.10.53

Q.O / SEA)

SEA Section

Mr. R.R.
21/10/53

Seen and returned with thanks.

Q 23/10/53 Ref 23/10/53

S.O. (H.C.O. Sec.)

H.R. G.
24/10

(22) (7)

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY AND INDIAN INDEPENDENCE
LEAGUE FUNDS.

Soon after the termination of the last War in the Far East, some quantity of gold, jewellery and other valuables, the exact value of which is not known yet, was seized from the officials and others connected with the I.N.A. and I.I.L. in the South East Asia Countries. These are at present held in Singapore by the Custodian of Property.

According to the information furnished by the Government of Singapore in 1950, these assets were valued at Straits dollars 147,163.00 as follows:-

(a) Gold and Jewellery.	₹ 40,243.00
(b) Currency notes of the face value of ₹ 157,803.53 but valued in 1950 at	₹ <u>106,920.00</u>
Total.	₹ <u>147,163.00</u>

Note

Intimation has ~~recently~~ been received from our Representative in Malaya that while the Piastra has been revalued, some of the currencies will not fetch anything. It is, therefore, difficult to assess the exact value of these assets.

These assets will be divided between India and Pakistan in the ratio of 2:1 respectively.

A brief note on the IIL Funds in Thailand.

23

In November 1949, our Legation (now Embassy) at Bangkok informed us that a large sum of money which originally belonged to the Indian Independence League (IIL) were lying in a Bank in Thailand in a British-American Joint Trust Account. This money was confiscated by the British authorities after the surrender of the Japanese at the end of the last war. We asked our Legation to make a formal approach to the British authorities for the return of the amount and in June 1950 we were informed that a sum of Ticals 2,58,822 (equivalent to Rs.79638/- at the rate of 3.25 ticals to Re.1/-) had been received by our Minister at Bangkok, and deposited in the Indian Overseas Bank Ltd. at 3% interest per annum. The amount is now in the custody of our Embassy in Thailand.

2. The question arose as to the best method of utilizing this money. Various suggestions were put forward by our Embassy as well as by us about the best use of the amount. Ultimately it was decided that without touching the principal of the Fund, the interest accruing from it could be utilised for sending a scholar from India to Bangkok every year to deliver lectures on any subject of Indo-Thai interest which is non-political in nature.

3. The proposal to depute Mr. T.N. Ramachandran, Joint Director General of Archaeology, to go to Bangkok this year for the purpose stated in the preceding para, was put up to P.M. who, while approving this proposal, suggested that the funds could be utilized more usefully by awarding some scholarships to Indians in Thailand to come to India for education. He also directed that the whole matter should be considered afresh as to how the funds could be utilized in the best possible manner. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Education who suggested that from every point of view it would be more useful to spend the whole, amount, and not only the interest accruing thereon, during the next five years or so in the following three ways:-

- (i) Awarding a number of scholarships to deserving Indian students in Thailand to come to India for education in important fields of study like medicine, engineering etc.
- (ii) A library unit consisting of suitable books, paintings and gramophone records of Indian music could be presented to the University in Thailand or any other organisation.
- (iii) A scholar from India may be sent to Bangkok occasionally to deliver lectures on subjects of Indo-Thai interest.

It has been proposed on the file that we may call for the comments of our Embassy in Thailand before agreeing to the proposals made above. We are also asking our Embassy to take steps to transfer the funds to India, if it is possible.